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American in Soviet Union Says He Unsure if He Will Settle There

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MOSCOW, Oct. 10 — The American cancer researcher who arrived in the Soviet Union under a grant of asylum Wednesday said at a news conference today that he was impressed by the Soviet Union but that it was to soon to decide if he and his family wanted to remain permanently.

The Soviet President, Andrei A. Gromyko, welcomed the American, Dr. Arnold Lockshin, today. According to Dr. Lockshin, Mr. Gromyko guaranteed him work and assured him "that my wife and family would be able to go to school and live freely as human beings should."

At the news conference, Dr. Lockshin repeated his contentions, already reported by Soviet news organizations, that he had been subjected to continual harassment, including "death threats" and obscene phone calls, because of his political views. He said that an organized campaign had been conducted against him, in-

volving everything from mail-tampering to a break-in at his home to a threat of violence against his wife by an armed man who called himself an ex-Green Beret.

Dismissal From Research Job

His dismissal from his post at a cancer research institute based at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston last Aug. 15, a few days after he had explored the possibility of moving to the Soviet Union, prompted him to go to the Soviet Consulate in Washington to ask for political asylum, Dr. Lockshin said.

Dr. Lockshin, who said had once been a Communist Party organizer and, with his wife Lauren, had had a lifelong commitment to socialism, attributed the harassment he described to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He said that the events he described are "in conformity with other things known to have been done in the past by the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. I can't envision anything else than that my case was orchestrated by the F.B.I."

Asked about their children's feelings about the move, Lauren Lockshin said they had discussed the matter with Jennifer, 15, Jeffrey, 11 and Michael, 5, "and they concurred that they had no future" in the United States.

Soviet Dissident's Case

The news conference echoed themes struck by Yuri F. Orlov, the Soviet dissident, on his arrival in the United States this week, and the meeting with Mr. Gromyko paralleled Mr. Orlov's reception by President Reagan.

While a number of American socialists or Communists brought their families to the Soviet Union in the 1920's and 30's, such occurrences have been virtually unknown in recent years.

At one point, the 49-year-old Dr. Lockshin spoke wistfully of the home and belongings he had left in Houston, and said he doubted the American authorities would permit him to return to the United States again. "The dirty campaign waged against us forced us to leave our country," he said, express-

ing gratitude to the Soviet Union "for providing a haven."

Dr. Lockshin said today that he finally made that choice last Sunday when he got word that his request for political asylum had been granted.

His accounts of harassment, of "strangers who would drive around blocks and threaten to beat me up," and the stories of his work as a Communist Party organizer, did not mesh with the life Dr. Lockshin's neighbors, co-workers and friends have described.

They describe a quiet man, apparently mildly liberal in his political beliefs, who was a successful researcher. Friends and family members, however, said they noticed a personality change in Dr. Lockshin over the last year.

In reference to published remarks by his father, Leo Lockshin, questioning his son's mental stability, the Dr. Lockshin said, "my father is 78 years old and he shows some signs of his age." He added that reporters "induced him to say some things about me."